

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1002
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007
DOHA ROUND TALK
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting/talk of Ministers of Commerce is being conducted again to go ahead with "Doha Round Talk" of World Trade Organisation;
- (b) if so, the agenda fixed for the above talk;
- (c) whether developed countries like European Union and United States of America have agreed to reduce their agriculture subsidy;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has obtained information in this regard from the developed and developing countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e): The Director-General, World Trade Organisation (WTO), in his capacity as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), on its activities since December 2006, reported the across-the-board full resumption of the negotiations under the Doha Work Programme at the meeting of the General Council held on 7 February 2007. The negotiations had been suspended on 24 July 2006.

Informal bilateral and plurilateral discussions among Members are underway with a view to gauging the extent of flexibility in the positions of some developed country Members, particularly in domestic support and agricultural market access, which were the main issues underlying the earlier suspension of talks. India is also engaged constructively and has been meeting with its WTO partners, both at Official and Ministerial levels, with a view to ensuring that its interests across all areas of negotiation are protected at each stage of the negotiations, including in the final outcome thereof. At this stage, a meeting between Ministers of Commerce of WTO Members has not been scheduled.

There has been no decision or agreement by the European Union, the United States or any other developed or developing country Member on the question of reduction of agricultural subsidies. The principles and elements on the basis of which the further negotiations in this regard are taking place are set out in the Doha Ministerial Declaration of November 2001, as complemented by the General Council Framework Decision of 1 August 2004 (the "July Framework") and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December 2005.